2ist December PRI\ATE SHIPS FOR THE NAVY

Letters are being sent to the majors and principal officers of sundry port towns to the effect that upon advertisement made of some attempt against this kingdom by way of invasion this next spring, the Queen hath given order to put the Navy Royal in readiness and to have the same assisted with some reasonable number of good ships of her subjects Wherefore ships of good burden shall be prepared, manned and f arn.shed, provided with munition and victual for five months, by the same that did contribute in [3]88 , these ships to be reaa} by the end of March

SIR HENRY UNTON SENT TO THE FRENCH KING

Sir Henry Unton is sent ambassador to France to discover how the French King standeth affected, and hoping to divert him from a course with Spain which by his own answers and Mr Edmondes and other conjectures, it seemeth he is like to enter into, the Pope working earnestly to bring it to pass, and almost all his Council discovering no good conceit of our amity

THE INVASION IN CORNWALL

After the sudden incursion of the enemy in Cornwall last summer, a collection was made both in Cornwall and some other counties for the relief of the inhabitants of those villages that suffered spoil Now it appeareth that th™ money was neither well ordered nor distributed, for the licence to gather was sold by the parties that undertook the collection, and the villages most spoiled like to be defrauded of it

z$th December NEWS 'or SIR FRANCIS DRAKE

At Plymouth an Irish captain new come from Lisbon declareth that Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Hawkins have taken great treasure at St John de Porto Rico, besides other pillage of great value, and that the fleet will

speedily return to England*

zStb December SMUGGLING or CORN

From the Isle of Ely it is reported that divers boats come up in the night time and convey much grain by water from the inland counties to Lynne whence it is transported overseas.